A ROCK IN THE BALTIC.

BY ROBERT BARR.

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CHAPTER VII-Continued.

Next morning's mail brought Dorothy a bulky letter decorated with English stamps, She locked the door, tore open the envelope and found many sheets of thin paper bearing the heading of the Bluewater Club,

Pall Mall. "I am reminded of an old adage," she read, "to the effect that one should never cross a bridge before arriving at it. Since I hade good-bye to you, up to this very evening. I have been plodding over a bridge that didn't exist, much to my own discom fort. You were with me when I received the message ordering me home to England, and I don't know whether or not I succeeded in suppressing all signs of my own perturbation, but we have in the navy now a man who does not hesitate to overturn a court-martial, and so I feared a reopening of the Rock in the Baltic question, which might have meant the wrecking of my career. I had quite made up my mind, if the worst came to the worst, to go out west and become a cowboy, but a passenger with when I became a courant on the Enthus and become a cowboy, but a passenger with statements to have been correct, which I led, for it was not conspicuous enough whom I became acquainted on the Enthumaintain they were. However, as Sir John obtain mention in the little gratis

Pendergast in a voice that seemed to come out of a sepulcher.

"'Who sighted the gun?'

"I did, sir.'

"'Why did not the regular gunner do that?"

"He did, sir, but I also took observations, and raised the muzzle, 900327 of an output of the sight of the muzzle, 900327 of an output of the sight of the muzzle of the sight of the s "'He did, sir, but I also took observa-tions, and raised the muzzle .000327 of an mensity raises a financial barrier against trimly-kept gravel walks. There were plenty of landscape garden walks in the immediate vicinity of the hotel, and some of them ambitiously penetrated into the woods, relapsing from the civilization of beaten gravel into a primitive thicket trail, which, however, always led to some celebrated bit of picturesqueness: a waterfall, or a pulpit rock upstanding like a tower, or the fancied resemblance of a human face carved by nature from the cliff, or a viewpoint jutting out over a deep chasm of the valley, which usually supported a rustic summer house or pavilion where unknown names were carved on the woodwork—the last resort of the undistinguished to achieve immortality by means of a jack-knife.

Dorothy discovered a little Eden of her "'Was your gunner inaccurate, then, to that extent?" "'No, sir, but I had weighed the ammu-nition, and found it short by two ounces and thirty-seven grains."
"I must not bore you with all the ques tions and answers. I merely give these as samples. They questioned me about the recoil, the action of the gun, the state of this, that and the other after firing, and luckily I was able to answer to a dot every query put to me. At the finish one of the judges asked me to give in my own words

Dorothy discovered a little Eden of her own, to which no discernible covert-way led, for it was not conspicuous enough to



"So Here You Are, Miss Laziness!" Katherine Cried.

cowboy is largely a being of the past, to be met with only in the writings of Stewart see, I went across the ocean tolerably depressed, finding my present occupation threatened and my future uncertain.

"When I arrived in London I took a room at this club, of which I have been a member for some years, and reported immediately at the admiralty. But there, in spite of all diligence on my part, I was quite unable to learn what was wanted of me. Of course, I could have gone to my haps he might have enlightened me, although he has nothing to do with the navy, but I rather like to avoid Uncle Metgurne. He brought me up since I was a small boy and seems unnecessarily ashamed of the result. It is his son who is the attache in St. Petersburg that I spoke to you

Dorothy ceased reading for a moment. "Metgurne, Metgurne," she said to herself. "Surely I know that name?" She laid down the letter, pressed the electric buttion and unlocked the door. When the servant came she said:

"Will you ask at the office if they have any biographical book of reference relat-

a red book which proved to be an English "Who's Who" dated two years back. Turning the pages she came to Metgurne.
"Metgurne, twelfth duke of, created 1631,

Herbert George Alan." Here followed a num-ber of other titles, the information that the son and helr was Marquis of Thaxted, and belonged to the diplomatic service, that Lord Metgurne was H. M. secretary of state for royal dependencies; finally a list of residences and clubs. She put down the book and resumed the letter.

"I tilnk I cought to have told you that when I reach St. Petersburg I shall be as anxious to avoid my cousin Thaxted as I am to steer clear of his father in London. So I sat in my club and read the papers.

Dear me, this is evidently going to be a very long letter. I hope you won't mind.

I think perhaps you may be interested in learning how they do things over here.

own in the service as 'Old

slana informed me, to my regret, that the made no verbal comment, I offered my which the hotel furnished-a pamphlet on opinion as tersely as I could. coated paper filled with half-tone engray. "Thank you, Lieut. Drummond," rumings and half-extravagant eulogies of what Edward White, Owen Wister and several bled Sir John in his deep voice, as if he other famous men whom he named. So you were pronouncing sentence, and, my testiwere pronouncing sentence, and, my testi-mony completed, the committee rose. "I was out in the street before Billy Richardson overtook me, and then he called

himself to my attention by a resounding slap on the shoulder.

"'Alan, my boy,' he cried, 'you have done yourself proud. Your fortune's made.'

"'As how?' I asked, shaking him by the hand.

'Why, we've been for weeks holding an inquiry on this blessed gun, and the ques-tion is whether or not a lot more of them tion is whether or not a lot more of them are to be made. You know what an opinionated beast Old Grouch is. Well, my boy, you have corroborated his opinion of the gun in every detail. He is such a brow-beating, tyrannical brute that the rest of the committee would rather like to go against him if they dared, but you have put a spoke in their wheel. Why, Sir John never said "thank you" to a human being since he was born until twenty-seven minuates and fifteen seconds after 11 this morning, as you would have put it, and at the ing, as you would have put it, and at the time of writing this letter this surmise of Billy's appears to be justified, for the tape in the club just now announced that the committee has unanimously decided in favor of the gun, and adds that this is regarded as a triumph for the chairman, Admiral Sir John Pendergast, with various letters after his name.

feared, has turned out intolerably long, and like our first conversation, it is all about myself. But then, you see, you are the only one on the other side of the water to whom I have confided my selfish worries, and I believe you to be so kind-hearted that I am sure you will not censure me for this once exceeding the limits of friendly correspondence. Having been deeply depressed that are the statement of the state during all the previous long days, the sud-den reaction urges me to go out into Pall Mall, fling my cap in the air, and whoop which action is quite evidently a remnant of my former cowboy aspirations. Truth to tell, the Russian business seems already forgotten, except by my stout old captain on the Consternation, or my uncle. The strenuous Sir John has had me haled across the ocean merely to give testimony, lasting about thirty-five minutes, when with a lit-tle patience he might have waited till the Consternation herself arrived, or else have casternation herself arrived, or ease have casted for us to try the gun at Bar Harbor. I suppose, however that after my unfortunate contretemps with Russia our government was afraid I'd chip a corner off the United States, and that they'd have to pay for it. So perhaps after all it was greater convents to bring me acrises on the liner.

Enthusiana.

"By the way, I learned yesterday that the Consternation has been ordered home, and so I expect to see Jack Lamont before many days are past. The ship will be paid off at Portsmouth, and then I suppose he and I will have our freedom for six months. I am rather looking forward to Jack's cook-I am rather looking forward to Jack's cooking me some weird but tasteful Russian dishes when we reach his blacksmith's shop in St. Petersburg. If I get on in Russia as I hope and expect. I shall spend the rest of my leave over in the states. I saw very little indeed of that great country, and am extremely anxious to see more. When one is on duty absard ship one can only take very short excursions ashore. I should like to visit Nlagara. It seems ridiculous that one should have been all along the American coast from Canada to New York, and never have got far enough inland to view the great falls.

three weeks whether I am going to succeed or not. If not, then there is no use in waiting there. I shall try to persuade the prince to accompany me to America. Durbring the weeks I am waiting in St. Peters-burg I shall continually impress upon him the utter futility of a life which has not investigated the great electrical power plant

on the cover page to show on what terms this paradise might be enjoyed.

Dorothy's bower was green and cool and crystal, the ruggedness of the rocks softened by the wealth of foliage. A very limpid spring high up and out of sight among the leaves sent its waters tinkling down the face of the cliff, ever filling a crystal-clear lakelet at the foot, which yet was never full. Velvety and beautiful as was the moss surrounding this pond it was nevertheless too damp to form an acceptable couch for a human being, unless that human being were brave enough to risk the rheumatic inconveniences which followed Rip Van Winkle's long sleep in these very regions, so Dorothy always carried with her from the hotel a featherweight, spider's web hammock, which she deftly slung be tween two saplings, their light suppleness giving an almost pneumatic effect to this fairy net spread in a fairy glen; and here the young woman swayed luxuriously in the relaxing lights of an indolence still too new to have become commonplace or

She always expected to read a great deal in the hammock, but often the book slip-ped unnoticed to the moss and she lay look-ing upward at the little discs of the blue sky visible through the checkering maze of green leaves. One afternoon, deserted by the latest piece of fictional literature, marked in plain figures on the paper cover that protected the cloth binding, one dollar and a half, but sold at the department stores for one dollar and eight cents, Dorothy lay half-hypnotized by the twinkling of the green leaves above her, when she heard a sweet voice singing a rollicking

"I hope she won't be like a former one, if all I've read of her is true. This letter was sent to your father, then?"

"It was, and he seems to regard it as a huge joke. Said he was going to cable his consent, and as the Consternation has sailed away, he would try to pick her up by wireless telegraphy and secure the young man that way; suggests that I shall have a lot of new photographs taken, so that he can hand them out to the reporters when they call for particulars. Sees in his mind's eye, he says, a huge black-lettered heading in the evening papers: 'A Russian Prince Captures One of Our Fairest Daughters,' and then insultingly hinted that perhaps, after all, it was better not to use my picture, as it might not bear out the 'fair daughter' fiction of the heading." "Yes, Kate, I can see that such treat-ment of a vital subject must have been

"He has not."

Then he has written to you?"

"Oh, well, I give it up. Tell me the trag-

edy your own way."

For answer Katherine withdrew her hands from behind her and offered to her

friend a sheet of paper she had been holding. Dorothy saw blazoned on the top of it

up from the document, and her friend said

"You see, they need another Katherine in

"I hope she won't be like a former one

very provoking."

"Provoking? I should say it was! He pretended he was going to tack this letter up on the notice board in the hall of the

hotel, so that every one might know what guests of distinction the Matterhorn House held. But the most exasperating feature of the situation is that this leter has been lying for days and days at our cottage in Bar Harbor. I am quite certain that I left instructions for letters to be forwarded, terday to the people who have taken our house, and now a whole heap of belated correspondence has arrived, with a note from our tenant saying he did not know our address. You will see at the bottom of the note that the prince asks my father to communicate with him by sending a reply to the Consternation at New York, but now the Consternation has sailed for England, and poor John must have waited and waited in vain."

"Write care of the Consternation in Eng-"But Jack told me that the Consterna

"But Jack told me that the Consternation paid off as soon as she arrived, and
probably he will have gone to Russia."
"If you address him at the admiralty in
London the letter will be forwarded
wherever he happens to be."
"How do you know?"
"I have heard that such is the case." "I have heard that such is the case." "But you're not sure, and I want to be

"Are you really in love with him, Kate?"
"Of course I am. You know that very
well, and I don't want any stupid misapprehension to arise at the beginning, such

as allows a silly author to carry on his story to the 400th page of such trash as this," and she gently touched with her toe the unoffending volume which lay on the ground beneath the hammock.

"Then why not adopt your father's sug-"Then why not adopt your father's suggestion and cable? It isn't you who are cabling, you know."
"I couldn't consent to that. It would

look as if we were in a hurry, wouldn't

"You? To whom?" "Hand me up that despised book, Kate,

Dorothy's face reddened as if the sinking western sum was shining full upon it.
"You write to one another, then?"
"Yes."
"And is it a case of—"
"No; friendship."
"Sure it is nothing more than that?"
Dorothy shook her head.
"Dorothy shook her head.
"Dorothy, you are a brick; that's what you are. You will do anything to help a friend in trouble.
Dorothy smiled.
"I have so few friends that whatever 1 you Miss-applied Energy? Katherine, you have walked so fast that you are quite red in the face."

"It isn't exertion, it's vexation. Dorothy, "It isn't exertion, it's vexation. Dorothy, I have had a perfectly terrible time. It is the anxiey regarding the proper discipline of parents that is spoiling the nervous system of American children. Train them up in the way they should go, and when they are old they do depart from it. There's nothing more awful than to own parents who think they possess a sense of humor. Thank goodness mother has none."

"Then it is your father who has been misbehaving?"

Dorothy smiled.

"I have so few friends that whatever 1 can do for them will not greatly tax any capabilities I may possess."

"Nevertheless, Dorothy, I thoroughly appreciate what you have done. You did not wish any one to know you were corresponding with him, and yet you never hesitated a moment when you saw I was anylous." "Of course it is. He treats the most seri-ous problem of a woman's life as if it were the latest thing in Life."

Dorothy sat up in the hammock.
"The most important problem? That means a proposal. Goodness gracious Kate, is that insurance man back here again?"
"What insurance man?"

a moment when you saw I was anxious."

"Indeed, Kate, there was nothing to conceal. Ours is a very ordinary exchange of letters. I have only had two; one at Bar Harbor a few days after he left, and another longer one since we came to the hotel, written from England." "Oh, heartless and heart-breaking Kath-erine, is there another? Sit here in the hammock beside me and tell me all about

"Did the last one go to Bar Harbor, too?
How came you to receive it when we did
not get ours?"
"It did not go to Bar Harbor. I gave him
the address of my lawyers in New York "No, thank you," refused Katherine. I weigh more than you, and I cannot risk my neck through the collapse of that bit of gossamer. I must take care of myself for his sake."

his sake."

"Then it is the life insurance man whose interests you are consulting? Have you taken out a policy with him?"

"Dear me, you are nearly as bad as father, but not quite so funny. You are referring to Mr. Henderson, I presume. A most delighful companion for a dance, but, my dear Dorothy, life is not all glided out to the measures of a Strauss waltz."

"True; quite indisputable, Kate, and them sentiments do you credit. Who is the man?"

"The human soul," continued Katherine seriously, "aspires to higher things than the society columns of the New York Sunday papers, and the frivolous chatter of an overheated ball room."

"Again you score, Kate, and are rising and they forwarded it to me here. Lieut. Drummond was ordered home by some one who had authority to do so, and received the message while he was sitting with me on the night of the ball. He had got into trouble with Russia. There had been an investigation, and he was acquitted. I saw that he was rather worried over the order home and I expressed my sympathy as well as I could, hoping everything would turn out for the best. He asked if he might write and let me know the outcome, and, being interested, I quite willingly gave him permission, and my address. The letter I received was all about a committee meeting in the admiratty in which he took part. "Again you score, Kate, and are rising higher and higher in my estimation. I see it all now. Those solemn utterances of yours point directly toward Hugh Miller's 'Old Red Sandstone' and works of that sort, and now I remember your singing 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home.' I therefore take it that Jack Lamont has arrived. He wrote to me from the club in Pall Mail to which I have addressed this cablegram.' There was a sly dimple in Katherine's cheeks as she listened to this straightforward explanation, and the faintest possible suspicion of a smile flickered at the corner of her mouth. She murmured, rather than sang:

" 'A pair of love-sick maidens we.' " "One, if you please," interrupted Dorothy. 'Love-sick all against our will-'

"Twenty years bence we shan't be A pair of love-sick maidens still."

"I am pleased to note," said Dorothy demurely, "that the letter written by the prince to your faher has brought you back to the Gilbert and Sullivan plane again, although in this fairy gien you should quote from 'Iolanthe' rather than from

a coat-of-arms and underneath it, written in words of the most formal nature, was the information that Prince Ivan Lermontoff presented his warmest regards to Capt. Kempt, U. S. N., retired, and begged permission to pay his addresses to the captain's daughter Katherine. Dorothy looked "Yes, Dot, this spot might do for a cove in the 'Pirates of Penzance,' only we're too far from the sea. But, to return to the matter in hand, I don't think there will be any need to send that cablegram. I don't like the idea of a cablegram, anyhow, I will return to the hotel and dictate to my frivolous father a serious composition quite as stately and formal as that received from the prince. He will address it and seal it, and then if you are kind enough to inclose it in the next letter you send to Lieut, Drum-mond, it will be sure to reach Jack Lamont ultimately." Dorothy sprang from the hammock to

the ground.
"Oh," she cried eagerly, "I'll go into the hotel with you and write my letter at

Katherine smiled, took her by the arm and said: "You're a dear girl, Dorothy, I'll race you to the hotel as soon as we are through this thicket."

CHAPTER IX. In Russia.

The next letter Dorothy received bore Russian stamps, and was dated at the blacksmith's shop, Bolshol Prospect, St. Petersburg. After a few preliminaries, which need not be set down here, Drummond continued:

"The day after Jack arrived in London, there being nothing whatever to detain him Petersburg, and are now domiciled above his blacksmith shop. We are not on the fashionable side of the river, but our street is wide, and a very short walk brings us to a bridge which, being crossed, allows us to wander among palaces if we are so disposed. We have been here only four days, yet a good deal has already been ac-complished. The influence of the prince has smoothed my path for me. Yesterday I had an audience with a very important personage in the foreign office, and today I have seen an officer of high rank in the navy. The prince warns me to mention no names, because letters, even to a young lady, are sometimes opened before they reach the person to whom they are addressed. These officials who have been kind enough to receive me are gentlemen so polished that I feel quite uncouth in their presence. I am a little shaky in my French, and feared that my knowledge of that language might not carry me through, but both of these officials speak English much better than I do, and they seemed rather pleased I had voluntarily visited St. Petersburg to explain that no discourtesy was meant in the action I had so unfortun-ately taken on the Baltic, and they gave me their warmest assurances they would do what they could to ease the tension between our respective countries. It seems that my business here will be finished much sooner than I expected, and then I am off on the quickest steamer for New York, in the hope of seeing Niagara Falls. I have met with one disappointment, however. Jack says he cannot possibly accompany me to the United States. I have failed to and I'll write my cablegram on the fly-leaf. arouse in him the faintest interest about

now sports merely a mustache, looking quite like a man from New York. You wouldn't recognize him if you met him on Broadway. The carpenters and glaziers are at work today repairing the damage. I told Jack that if this sort of thing kept on I'd be compelled to patronize another hotel, but he says it won't happen again. It seems he was trying to combine two substances by adding a third, and, as I understood him, the mixing took place with unexpected suddenness. He has endeavored to explain to me the reaction, as he calls it, which occurred, but I seem to have no head for chemistry, and besides, if I am to be blown through the roof some of these days it will be no consolation to me when I come down upon the pavement outside to know accurately the different elements which contributed to my elevation. Jack is very patient in trying to instruct me but he could not regist the She must be a most remarkable young wo-man, and it shows how stupid I am that I did not in the least appreciate this fact

when in her company." met were most courteous and anxious to advance his interests. He wrote about the

repressive measures so often carried out ruthlessly by the Russian police. Still, even these may be exaggerated, for the police have to deal with a people very much different from our own. It is rather curious that at this moment I am in vague trouble concerning the police. I am sure this place is watched, and I am also almost certain that my friend Jack is being shadowed. He dresses like a workman: sia being a British subject. My cold and formal Cousin Thaxted is a member of the British embassy here, and my cold and formal uncle is a cabinet minister in England, facts which must be well known

tion. Jack is very patient in trying to instruct me, but he could not resist the temptation of making me ashamed by saying that your friend, Miss Katherine Kempt, would have known at once the full particulars of the reaction. Indeed, he says, she warned him of the disaster by marking a passage in a book she gave him which foreshadowed this very thing. She must be a most remarkable young wohas got on my nerves, and I shall be glad to turn my back on it. Jack pooh-poohs the idea that he is in any danger. Even the governor of St. Petersburg, he says, dare not lay a finger on him, and as for the chief of police, he pours scorn on that powerful official. He scouts the idea that The next letter was received a week later. He was getting on swimmingly, both at the foreign office and at the Russian admiralty. All the officials he had a schoolgiri than for a stalwart man over six feet in height. One consolation is that Jack now has become as keen for Amermeapprehensions held in England regarding Russia, and expressed his resolve to arranged for me tomorrow with a great do what he could when he returned to remove these false impressions.

"Of course," he went on, "no American or Englishman can support or justify the repressive measures so often carried out ruthlessly by the Russian police. Still, even these may be exaggregated for the policy of those in high places remains an arranged for the tomorrow with a great government official will settle my own business finally one way or another. A while ago I was confident of success, but the repeated delays have made me less optimistic now, although the gentle courtesy of those in high places remains a government official will settle my own business finally one way or another. A courtesy of those in high places remains undiminished

"Dear Miss Amburst, I cannot afford to fall lower in your estimation than per-haps I deserve, so I must say that this fear which has overcome me is all on account of my friend, and not on my own behalf at all. I am perfectly safe in Rus-sla, being a British subject. My cold and formal Cousin Thaxted is a member of



"Such Was the Last Letter Drummond Was Ever to Send to Dorothy."

St. Petersburg. Great numbers of workmen pass down our street. They all seem to know who the prince is, and the first days we were here, they saluted him with shall induce him to pack tomorrow, and a deference which I supposed was due to his rank, in spite of the greasy clothes he wore. Since the explosion an indefinable change has come over these workmen. They salute the prince still when we meet them on the street, but there is in their attitude a certain sly sympathy, if I may so term it; a bond of camraderie which is implied in their manner rather than expressed. Jack says this is all fancy on my part, but I don't think it is. These men imagine that Prince Ivan Lermontoff, who lives among them and dresses like them, is concocting some explosive which may yet rid them of the tyrants who make their lives so unsafe. All this would not matter, but what does matter is the chemical reaction, as I believe Jack would term cal reaction, as I believe Jack would telm the working the authorities. The authorities undoubtedly have their spies among the workingmen, and know well what they are thinking about and talking about. I do not believe they were satisfied with the explanations Jack gave regarding the disaster. I have the disaster in the latest, But the morning and afternoon passed, and Katherine made no sign, tried to impress upon Jack that he must be more careful in walking about the town, and I have tried to persuade him, after work, to dress like the gentleman he is, work, to dress like the gentleman he is, but he laughs at my fears, and assures me that I have gone from one extreme to the other in my opinion of St. Petersburg. First I thought it was like all other capitals; now I have swung too far in the other direction. He says the relige of St. tals; now I have swung too far in tals; now I have swung too from New York, recently opened, the first and a number of volumes in what might be termed serious binding, leather or cloth, and showing that high coloring which Kallerine was thus here'd from the word warre, also that he had a series that the series that the had a series that the series that the series that the had a series that the series that th

to that unfortunate explosion, which gath- tersburg; so I am immune. The worst sprung from the ground. There was an of the country, but even that is unthinksprung from the ground. There was an official examination, of course, and Jack explained, apparently to everybody's satisfaction, exactly how he came to make the mistake that resulted in the loss of his beard and his windows. I don't know exactly how to describe the feeling of uneasiness which has come over me. At first sight this city did not strike me as so very much different from New York or Lon-no such security. He is a Pussian such security. sight this city did not strike me as so very much different from New York or London, and meeting, as I did, so many refined gentlemen in high places, I had come to think St. Petersburg was after all very much like Paris, or Berlin, or Rome. But it is different, and the difference makes itself subtly felt, just as the air in some coast towns of Britain is relaxing, and in others bracing. In these towns a man of the corriage, and to my others bracing. In these towns a man doesn't notice the effect at first, but later on he begins to feel it, and so it is here in thought of it himself at the time we were

CHAPTER X. Calamity Unseen.

childhood to maturity is not obliterated by an unexpected shower of gold. Dorothy was an early riser, and one morning, entering the parlor from her room she saw, lying upon the table, a letter with a Russian stamp, but addressed in an unknown noon passed, and Katherine made no sign,